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Western Normal Leader - February 1, 1911

Western Normal Leader Staff

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Western Normal Leader

Vol. 4

Hays, Kansas, Feb. 1, 1911

No. 11

National Aid to Scientific Agriculture and Agricultural Education

(By JOSIAH MAIN.)

The stress of political events, the fruitfulness of a virgin soil, and the impracticability of such science as existed during the early years of the republic are together responsible for the tardy development of scientific agriculture in the United States. That the last is not an unimportant cause is evidenced by the fact that in foreign countries where the other causes did not exist, no real scientific study of the problems of agriculture was begun much earlier than in our country. For it was not until 1843 that the famous field experiments at Rothamstead, England, which have continued to this day, were commenced; and Germany, who has come to be looked upon as the mother of practical science, was even later in inaugurating this, the most important economic application of the sciences.

The history of scientific agriculture in the United States is the history of three more or less distinct institutions, namely, the United States department of Agriculture, the state agricultural colleges, and experiment stations. Distinct in origin, these three have grown into a unity of purpose and a mutual dependence which renders it impossible to discuss any one of them without reference to the others.

Historically, the Department of Agriculture comes first and its origin was humble enough. This had its origin in a function which seems to have been voluntarily assumed by the United States Patent Office of distribut-

ing seeds for introduction into the United States or foreign plants of economic value. This function was recognized after a few years by Congress when, in 1839, \$1000. was appropriated for annual expenses for the work and later, as the needs became apparent, an entomologist was provided for and the next year (1854) a chemist and a botanist were added to the staff.

This work continued as subordinate to the Patent Office until its needs made it expedient to establish it as a separate institution and in 1862 it was accordingly made independent of the Patent Office and the Interior Department by Congress, and Isaac Newton put at its head as Commissioner of Agriculture. This plan of administration continued until 1889 when it was raised to the rank of a department coordinate those of State, Treasury, and War, and its first secretary, Norman J. Coleman, was therefore a member of the President Cleveland's cabinet. Such, today, is its dignity as a department of our government and with such men in charge as Secretary Wilson, who has been its chief since 1897, it bids fair to maintain its influence.

A brief account of the development of this department, such as they here attempted must do scant justice to its real and growing importance to the largest class of wealth producers in the nation. A mention of the different bureaus and divisions will suggest the possibilities for usefulness th

that are being realized. The Secretary with his Assistant Secretary, Chief Clerk, and Appointment Clerk have supervision of the following offices, bureaus, or divisions, each with its head or director: Weather, Animal Industry, Chemistry, Statistics, Accounts, Experiment Stations, Entomology, Biological Survey, Forest, Plant Industry, Soils, Public Road Publications and Library, all of whose functions are apparent from their names.

It is a significant coincidence that the year 1862, which saw the creation of the Agricultural Department as a distinct branch of the government, also saw the passage of the law which by the signature of President Lincoln, created practically all of the agricultural colleges now existing in the United States. The few existing before that year had been slow of development and of little utility. The father of the law, Senator then Representative Morrill of Vermont, in that year secured the passage of the Land Grant Act which gave to each state land scrip amounting to 30,000 acres for each senator and representative in Congress "to provide the establishment of one or more institutions in each state, the leading object of which shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts in such manner as legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

This Land Act or first Morrill law was alone responsible for the establishment of the 32 agricultural colleges maintained by the several states by the year 1890. In that year was passed the second Morrill law, also the work of the venerable sena-

tor from Vermont, since which act the number of colleges has been greatly increased and the cooperation of the three institutions, the Agricultural Department, the agricultural colleges, and the experiment stations has been completely inaugurated.

The funds for the support of the state agricultural colleges are from three sources. After the founding of a college agreeable to the terms of the first Morrill act, each state has almost invariably assumed the greater share of the burden has made regular and increasing appropriations for its support, frequently maintaining it as a part of its state university. Then the second Morrill act, in 1890, provided an annual appropriation of \$15,000 for each state college founded under the provisions of the first act, which money was to be increased \$1000 annually until the sum should reach \$25,000 annually at which figure it was to be (and is) continued. But the most important source of revenue in its influence if not in its amount, was that provided by the first Morrill act. The land scrip donated by that act was variously disposed of by the different states. In those states having no land subject to purchase at that time (1862) nor later it was often considered expedient to sell the scrip at market price and the fund so received was used for the establishment and endowment of colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts (engineering). In those states having lands subject to entry under the United States Laws purchases were in many cases made with the scrip and the increase in the value of the lands so purchased has accrued to the fund. Such states have therefore realized much more for their appropriations than have those which too hastily converted their scrip into money.

(To be continued.)

The Price of the Prairie and the Address by its Author.

Among the various addresses given before our school none perhaps was ever enjoyed more heartily by the faculty, the student body and the visitors as the talk given by the talented Kansas Author, Margaret Hill McCarter at Chapel last Monday morning. It was a fortunate thing the young men and women of this institution, as well as those of the High School had the pleasure and opportunity of listening to an address of such merit. An address given in the frank friend to friend manner so characteristic of the Kansan yet ranking as the best of its kind ever given here and equaling in talent many numbers put out by Lyceum Bureaus. Mrs. McCarter related several incidents leading up to the writing of the book and explained her principle reasons for presenting it to the public, which were chiefly these; to arouse in the mind of the people a better appreciation for the determination and zeal of the sturdy pioneers by whose labors and efforts the once barren Kansas prairie has been made to blossom as the rose and also to place a greater measure of value upon the action, the courage and the endurance manifested by the men and women who braved the numberless difficulties and dangers of frontier life. In the evening before the play Mrs. McCarter spoke briefly saying it was a great pleasure to be with us and that she had enjoyed her short visit in this city. Upon leaving the platform a large bouquet of American beauty roses given by the Club Women of Hays was presented her by Prof. Shively. The play was entertaining and interesting throughout. Prof. Matthew is to be congratulated upon his creditable dramatization of the book and the excellent management of the

play. As a whole it reflected credit upon the author, the man who dramatized and staged it, the students who gave it, and in general our school. Before the last act of the play the announcement was made from the platform that Principal Picken had requested Mrs. McCarter to deliver coming Commencement Day address and that she had accepted. This promises to be something good and will without doubt be a great treat for the people of Hays.

Sullivan Johnson who has been detained at home since the holidays by the illness of his mother returned to school the latter part of last week. He intends to be here only during the present term.

Mary Ryan will be one among us for the rest of the school year. Look out for the next inter society basket ball game, for Mary has always been a loyal Literati supporter.

Some of the Model School boys will try their luck at Domestic Science this term. Look out girls or they will beat you.

Principal Picken and Prof. Bird were called to Emporia Monday evening.

C. E. Hall who was absent the past term is in school again.

Mr. J. L. Plham our former faculty member paid the Normal a visit last Wednesday. Mr. Plham said it was just like back home again to visit Hays. He also made a visit to the Experiment Station while here.

The work of the new term is well begun and the students are delving into it with all their might and main.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY

In speaking of another's faults,
 Pray don't forget your own;
 Remember those in homes of glass
 Should seldom throw a stone.
 If we have nothing else to do
 But talk of those who sin,
 'Tis better we commence at home,
 And from that point begin.

We have no right to judge a man
 Until he's fairly tried;
 Should we not like his company
 We know the world is wide.
 Some may have faults, and who has
 not?

The old as well as young;
 Perhaps we may, for aught we know,
 Have fifty to their one.

I'll tell you of a better plan,
 And find it works full well—
 To try my own defects to cure
 Before of others tell.

And though I sometimes hope to be
 No worse than some I know,
 My own shortcomings bid me let
 The faults of other go.

Then let us all, when we commence,
 To slander friend or foe
 Think of the harm one word may do
 To those we little know.

Remember, curses sometimes, like
 Our chickens, "roost at home."
 Don't speak of other's faults until
 We have more of our own.

—The Home Queen.

The latest number of the Journal of Education has a two page article against the moving picture by William A. McKeever Professor of Philosophy in the Kansas State Agricultural College.

Social pressure is a vital factor in life, and should be skillfully utilized in school.

The paper comes out this week which is the week it is regularly issued. The Staff has made up for delay after the holidays.

EPIDEMICS

Several epidemics are prevalent at the Normal these days. One of these of course is the grippe. The other can best be described by the diagnosis of a recent case in progress. For several weeks preceding this case the patient had a longing look upon his face and one day was found engaged in a heart to heart conversation with the fair one in the main hall of the building. It was soon learned that at this particular stage of the malady the patient's mind was centered upon one thought and all attempts to get it upon any other were utterly useless. Our observations in such cases have given us the following facts. The victim usually endures much worry and mental distress. He continually fears a backset, a turn for the worse generally develops at some time during his sickness. The seat of the trouble is either the head or the heart and sometimes both, yet many cases are on record where the victim got it in the neck. For a better description of the last mentioned epidemic call on Jacob Weisner as he is the latest patient. Of the two epidemics the writer prefers the grippe.

The men who oppose prohibition are usually about as ready to defend their position as Earl Rose the orator for the National Association of Manufacturers and Business men who recently made a bitter attack on prohibition. Following this speech, John A. Shields President of the Kansas Intercollegiate Prohibition Association openly challenged Mr. Rose for a joint debate on the question Mr. Rose did not accept and Mr. Shields has again challenged him. Mr. Rose is charged with using unreliable statistics and making statements misleading and deceiving to the people. In case Mr. Rose accepts the challenge, may the right side win.

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As to the Normal work, it is exceedingly vital to Kansas, for it is from this that we get our fully trained teachers. They are not as numerous as they should be, but they are the most highly trained teachers that we have in the schools, and are not only valuable in their own classrooms, but in handing on to teachers less fortunate in original training the methods that are recognized as the best and most direct in reaching results. The Normal school has not ordinarily received much general advertising and it has had few "fighting friends," compared with the other institutions of the State, but it is an institution with which the Legislature can best afford to be liberal.—From Topeka Capital, Jan. 23rd.

The heating apparatus and the new machinery of the Normal plant were inspected Saturday, Feb. 4th, by experts from the engineering department of the State Agricultural College.

Miss Ida Hopper of Winona, Kansas who has been attending school at Sterling and who is now visiting the Morgan family of this city was a Normal visitor Friday morning.

Arthur Cox, Effie Cox, Gertrude Dorney, Hazel Howie, May Markey, Ellen Weist, Ellen Behan, Teresa Coleman and Mary Ryan have enrolled for work this term.

The Entre Nous Debating Club is the recipient of fifteen copies of Sen. Bourne's speech on "Initiative and Referendum" sent by our United States Senator J. L. Bristow.

As we go to press the Lyceumites are planning for a big mock trial to be pulled off Friday evening. A more full description will be given later and if any new points of law are brought out we will try to record them also.

The Interstate Schoolman gives the following which will undoubtedly be gratifying to those interested in education. Statistics and records in the office of State Superintendent Fairchild show that the average salary of teachers in Kansas has increased from \$13 per month in 1862 to \$46.92 in 1910 in the case of women teachers and from \$24.00 in 1862 to \$51.30 in 1910 in the case of men teachers. During the same time the total number of teachers has increased from 319 to 13,467, the number of school districts from 534 to 8,726, the average length of the school term from 12 to twenty-six weeks, and the estimated value of school property from \$10,122 to \$20,891,590.

Prof. J. S. Bird returned from Topeka Thursday morning.

Prof. Main's agriculture class recently visited the Experiment Station.

Principal Picken was called to Topeka Monday evening he returned Friday morning.

An instrument for testing perservation and measuring intelligence is one of the recent inventions.

James Johansen and sister Lottie spent Saturday and Sunday at their home on the Saline

Representative H. N. Boyd of Republic County, has been voted the honor of "Father of the Kansas House of Representatives"

Many common phrases such as angry school boys use have found their way in the legislature halls at Topeka.

We heard of a young man (of course he did not go to the Normal) who said it was never late till two. We wonder who it is?

A complete set of Mark Twain's writings has been received by our school. These books will prove interesting reading to the lovers of good literature.

The members of the Staff wish to express their sincere thanks for the two line article found in the Leader box this week. As we said before keep it up, it helps out a little.

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Mrs. Grace Larison one of our students left for Rawlins County last Wednesday.

Germany has had a very efficient medical school inspection for fifteen years.

The new curtain representing the scene of Old Fort Hays is a beauty and was a strong feature in the production of the recent play.

All that is needed is some moisture, a few song birds and green grass and summer would be here with all its charms.

Several lathes have been added to the manual training department, which undoubtedly will be of much service to the individuals engaged in that line of work.

Baseball practice has begun. The boys have been out several times. We have hopes for as strong a team in base ball the coming spring as we have had in basket ball the past season.

Say don't forget those basket ball games between our girls and Lindsborg which will be played here Feb. 7th and 8th. It is your duty to be there and do some yelling for the home team. Come and bring your voice with you.

The men in high positions are usually very much abused and censured by individuals, who are continually finding fault with someone. Pres. Taft has suffered many unjust criticisms yet he has done and is doing many things worthy of the highest commendation. The same thing may be said of Governor Stubbs.

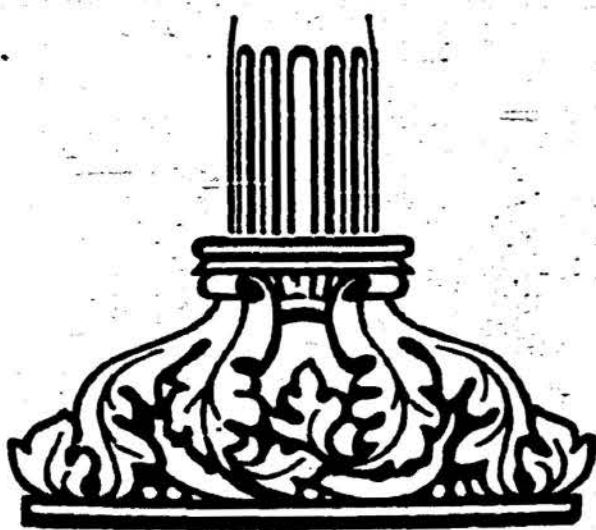
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Hays High School vs. Normal.

On last Saturday night a double header basket ball game was played in the Normal Gymnasium.

The Hays High School boys playing the Normal third team and the Hays High School girls the Normal first team. There were no spectacular features in the boys game which was played first but the High School boys did good work considering the great masses of avoirdupois which they had to buck up against. The game was good and lively and as the pistol cracked the score registered as it should, Normal in the lead.

The girls now took the floor whose playing proved more sensational. The first half of the game was nearly a walk away for the High School but the last half the Normal girls awoke to the fact that if they should make any showing at all there would have to be a little work done. So they then livened up and Normal won by the close margin of one point.

Some characteristics of football were exhibited in this last game, however they were no serious injuries.

Delphian D. C.

The latest meeting of the club was largely devoted to a discussion of politics. This discussion was becoming heated when a motion was made to postpone it until the next meeting. Dates for the joint debates are being arranged and the eloquent Entre Nous members are letting the Delphians know they are not afraid of them. C. E. Hall has returned to school and is again among the members of the club.

Woodrow Wilson and Norman Hapgood are among the prominent persons who have recently commended Kansas methods and Kansas people.

George Cox has enrolled for work this term.

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